

1 H.270

2 An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the adult-use and medical  
3 cannabis programs

4 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

5 Sec. 1. 7 V.S.A. § 843 is amended to read:

6 § 843. CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD; DUTIES; MEMBERS

7 \* \* \*

8 (h) ~~Advisory committee.~~

9 (1) ~~There is an advisory committee established within the Board that~~  
10 ~~shall be composed of members with expertise and knowledge relevant to the~~  
11 ~~Board's mission. The Board shall collaborate with the advisory committee on~~  
12 ~~recommendations to the General Assembly. The advisory committee shall be~~  
13 ~~composed of the following 14 members:~~

14 (A) ~~one member with an expertise in public health, appointed by the~~  
15 ~~Governor;~~

16 (B) ~~the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designee;~~

17 (C) ~~one member with an expertise in laboratory science or~~  
18 ~~toxicology, appointed by the Governor;~~

19 (D) ~~one member with an expertise in systemic social justice and~~  
20 ~~equity issues, appointed by the Speaker of the House;~~

21 (E) ~~one member with an expertise in women and minority owned~~  
22 ~~business ownership, appointed by the Speaker of the House;~~

1           ~~(F) the Chair of the Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and~~  
2           ~~Advisory Council or designee;~~

3           ~~(G) one member with an expertise in the cannabis industry, appointed~~  
4           ~~by the Senate Committee on Committees;~~

5           ~~(H) one member with an expertise in business management or~~  
6           ~~regulatory compliance, appointed by the Treasurer;~~

7           ~~(I) one member with an expertise in municipal issues, appointed by~~  
8           ~~the Senate Committee on Committees;~~

9           ~~(J) one member with an expertise in public safety, appointed by the~~  
10          ~~Attorney General;~~

11          ~~(K) one member with an expertise in criminal justice reform,~~  
12          ~~appointed by the Attorney General;~~

13          ~~(L) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee;~~

14          ~~(M) the Chair of the Cannabis for Symptom Relief Oversight~~  
15          ~~Committee or designee; and~~

16          ~~(N) one member appointed by the Vermont Cannabis Trade~~  
17          ~~Association.~~

18           ~~(2) Initial appointments to the advisory committee as provided in~~  
19           ~~subdivision (1) of this subsection (h) shall be made on or before July 1, 2021.~~

20           ~~(3) The Board may establish subcommittees within the advisory~~  
21           ~~committee to accomplish its work.~~



1 graphic, or other material; billboard, sign, or other outdoor display; other  
2 periodical literature, publication, or in a radio or television broadcast; the  
3 Internet; or in any other media. The term does not include:

4 (A) any label affixed to any cannabis or cannabis product or any  
5 individual covering, carton, or other wrapper of that container that constitutes a  
6 part of the labeling under provisions of these standards;

7 (B) any editorial or other reading material, such as a news release, in  
8 any periodical or publication or newspaper for the publication of which no  
9 money or valuable consideration is paid or promised, directly or indirectly, by  
10 any cannabis establishment, and that is not written by or at the direction of the  
11 licensee;

12 (C) any educational, instructional, or otherwise noncommercial  
13 material that is not intended to induce sales and that does not propose an  
14 economic transaction, but that merely provides information to the public in an  
15 unbiased manner; or

16 (D) a sign attached to the premises of a cannabis establishment that  
17 merely identifies the location of the cannabis establishment.

18 \* \* \*

19 (8) “Cannabis establishment” means a cannabis cultivator, propagation  
20 cultivator, wholesaler, product manufacturer, retailer, testing laboratory, or

1 integrated licensee licensed by the Board to engage in commercial cannabis  
2 activity in accordance with this chapter.

3 \* \* \*

4 (31) “Cannabis propagation cultivator” or “propagation cultivator”  
5 means a person licensed by the Board to cultivate cannabis clones, immature  
6 plants, and mature plants in accordance with this chapter.

7 Sec. 5. 7 V.S.A. § 863 is amended to read:

8 § 863. REGULATION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

9 \* \* \*

10 (b) A municipality that hosts any cannabis establishment may establish a  
11 cannabis control commission composed of commissioners who may be  
12 members of the municipal legislative body. The local cannabis control  
13 commission may issue and administer local control licenses under this  
14 subsection for cannabis establishments within the municipality but shall not  
15 assess a fee for a local control license issued to a cannabis establishment. The  
16 commissioners may condition the issuance of a local control license upon  
17 compliance with any bylaw adopted pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4414 or upon  
18 ordinances regulating signs or public nuisances adopted pursuant to 24 V.S.A.  
19 § 2291, except that ordinances may not regulate public nuisances as applied to  
20 outdoor cultivators that are regulated in the same manner as the Required  
21 Agricultural Practices under subdivision 869(f)(2) of this title. The

1 commission may suspend or revoke a local control license for a violation of  
2 any condition placed upon the license. The Board shall adopt rules relating to  
3 a municipality's issuance of a local control license in accordance with this  
4 subsection and the local commissioners shall administer the rules furnished to  
5 them by the Board as necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

6 (c) Prior to issuing a license to a cannabis establishment under this chapter,  
7 the Board shall ensure that the applicant has obtained a local control license  
8 from the municipality, if required, unless the Board finds that the municipality  
9 has exceeded its authority under this section.

10 (d) A municipality shall not:

11 (1) prohibit the operation of a cannabis establishment within the  
12 municipality through an ordinance adopted pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2291 or a  
13 bylaw adopted pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4414, or regulate a cannabis  
14 establishment in a manner that has the effect of prohibiting the operation of a  
15 cannabis establishment;

16 (2) condition the operation of a cannabis establishment, or the issuance  
17 or renewal of a municipal permit to operate a cannabis establishment, on any  
18 basis other than the conditions in subsection (b) of this section; ~~and~~ or

19 (3) exceed the authority granted to it by law to regulate a cannabis  
20 establishment.

1 Sec. 6. 7 V.S.A. § 869 is amended to read:

2 § 869. CULTIVATION OF CANNABIS; ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND  
3 USE STANDARDS; REGULATION OF ~~SMALL CULTIVATORS~~  
4 CULTIVATION

5 (a) A cannabis establishment shall not be regulated as “farming” under the  
6 Required Agricultural Practices, 6 V.S.A. chapter 215, or other State law, and  
7 cannabis produced from cultivation shall not be considered an agricultural  
8 product, farm crop, or agricultural crop for the purposes of 32 V.S.A. chapter  
9 124, 32 V.S.A. § 9741, or other relevant State law.

10 (b) The cultivation, processing, and manufacturing of cannabis regulated  
11 under this chapter shall comply with all applicable State, federal, and local  
12 environmental, energy, or public health law, unless otherwise provided under  
13 this chapter.

14 (c) A cannabis establishment regulated under this chapter shall be subject  
15 to regulation under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 as authorized by this chapter, unless  
16 otherwise provided under this chapter.

17 (d)(1) The cultivation, processing, and manufacturing of cannabis by all  
18 cultivators regulated under this chapter shall comply with the following  
19 sections of the Required Agricultural Practices as administered and enforced  
20 by the Board:

1 (A) section 6, regarding conditions, restriction, and operating  
2 standards;

3 (B) section 8, regarding groundwater quality and groundwater quality  
4 investigations; and

5 (C) section 12, regarding subsurface tile drainage.

6 (2) Application of or compliance with the Required Agricultural  
7 Practices under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be construed to  
8 provide a presumption of compliance with or exemption to any applicable  
9 State, federal, and local environmental, energy, public health, or land use law  
10 required under subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

11 (e) Persons cultivating cannabis or handling pesticides for the purposes of  
12 the manufacture of cannabis products shall comply with the worker protection  
13 standard of 40 C.F.R. Part 170.

14 (f) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a ~~small~~ cultivator  
15 licensed under this chapter who initiates cultivation of cannabis outdoors on a  
16 parcel of land ~~that was subject to the Required Agricultural Practices prior to~~  
17 ~~licensed cultivation of cannabis~~ shall:

18 (1) be regulated in the same manner as “farming” and not as  
19 “development” on the tract of land where cultivation occurs for the purposes of  
20 permitting under 10 V.S.A. chapter 151;



1 (3) Rules concerning product manufacturers shall include:

2 (A) requirements that a single package of a cannabis product shall  
3 not contain more than ~~50~~ 100 milligrams of THC, except in the case of:

4 (i) cannabis products that are not consumable, including topical  
5 preparations;

6 (ii) solid concentrates, oils, and tinctures; and

7 (iii) cannabis products sold to a dispensary pursuant to 18 V.S.A.  
8 chapter 86 and rules adopted pursuant to that chapter;

9 \* \* \*

10 (5) Rules concerning retailers shall include:

11 \* \* \*

12 (E) ~~facility inspection~~ requirements and procedures for facility  
13 inspection to occur at least annually.

14 \* \* \*

15 (8) Rules concerning propagators shall include:

16 (A) requirements for proper verification of age of customers;

17 (B) pesticides or classes of pesticides that may be used by  
18 propagators, provided that any rules adopted under this subdivision (8) shall  
19 comply with and shall be at least as stringent as the Agency of Agriculture,  
20 Food and Markets' Vermont Pesticide Control Regulations;

21 (C) standards for indoor cultivation of cannabis;



1           ~~(F)~~(G) an integrated license.

2           (2)(A) The Board shall develop tiers for:

3                   (i) cultivator licenses based on the plant canopy size of the  
4 cultivation operation or plant count for breeding stock; and

5                   (ii) retailer licenses.

6           (B) The Board may develop tiers for other types of licenses.

7           (3)(A) Except as provided in subdivisions (B) and (C) of this  
8 subdivision (3), an applicant and its affiliates may obtain a maximum of one  
9 type of each type of license as provided in subdivisions ~~(1)(A)–(E)~~ (1)(A)–(F)  
10 of this subsection (d). Each license shall permit only one location of the  
11 establishment.

12           (B) An applicant and its affiliates that control a dispensary registered  
13 on April 1, 2022 may obtain one integrated license provided in subdivision  
14 ~~(1)(F)~~ (1)(G) of this subsection (d) or a maximum of one of each type of  
15 license provided in subdivisions ~~(1)(A)–(E)~~ (1)(A)–(F) of this subsection (d).

16 An integrated licensee may not hold a separate cultivator, propagator,  
17 wholesaler, product manufacturer, retailer, or testing laboratory license, and no  
18 applicant or its affiliates that control a dispensary shall hold more than one  
19 integrated license. An integrated license shall permit only one location for  
20 each of the types of activities permitted by the license: cultivation, propagator,  
21 wholesale operations, product manufacturing, retail sales, and testing.



1       (b) All meetings and hearings of the Board shall be subject to the Vermont  
2       Open Meeting Law.

3       (c) The following shall be exempt from public inspection and copying  
4       under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential:

5           (1) records related to licensee security, safety, transportation, or trade  
6       secrets, including information provided in an operating plan pursuant to  
7       subdivision 881(a)(1)(B) of this title; and

8           (2) records related to complaints, investigations, or proceedings, except  
9       as provided in subsection (d) of this section.

10       (d)(1) If a complaint or investigation results in formal action to revoke,  
11       suspend, condition, reprimand, warn, fine, or otherwise to penalize a licensee  
12       based on noncompliance with law or regulation, the case record, as defined by  
13       3 V.S.A. § 809(e), shall be available for public inspection and copying under  
14       Vermont's Public Records Act.

15       (2) The Board shall prepare and maintain an aggregated list of all closed  
16       investigations into misconduct or noncompliance from whatever source  
17       derived. The information contained in the list shall be available for public  
18       inspection and copying under Vermont's Public Records Act. The list shall  
19       contain the date, nature, and outcome of each complaint. The list shall not  
20       contain the identity of the subject licensee unless formal action resulted, as  
21       described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.



1           (3) test, transport, and sell cannabis seeds that meet the federal  
2           definition of hemp to a licensed cultivator or retailer or to the public.

3           (b) A licensed propagation cultivator shall not cultivate mature cannabis  
4           plants for the purpose of producing, harvesting, transferring, or selling  
5           cannabis flower for or to any person.

6           Sec. 12. PROPAGATION CULTIVATOR LICENSE IMPLEMENTATION

7           The Cannabis Control Board shall begin issuing propagation cultivator  
8           licenses on or before July 1, 2024.

9           Sec. 13. 7 V.S.A. § 905 is amended to read:

10          § 905. WHOLESALER LICENSE

11          A wholesaler licensed under this chapter may:

12                 (1) purchase cannabis ~~from a licensed cultivator and integrated licensee,~~  
13                 and cannabis products from a licensed ~~product manufacturer, integrated~~  
14                 ~~licensee, and dispensary~~ cannabis establishment;

15                 (2) transport, process, package, and sell cannabis and cannabis products  
16                 to a licensed ~~product manufacturer, retailer, integrated licensee, and dispensary~~  
17                 cannabis establishment; and

18                 (3) sell cannabis seeds or immature cannabis plants to a licensed  
19                 cultivator.

1 Sec. 14. 7 V.S.A. § 906 is amended to read:

2 § 906. PRODUCT MANUFACTURER LICENSE

3 A product manufacturer licensed under this chapter may:

4 (1) purchase cannabis ~~from a licensed cultivator, wholesalers, or~~  
5 ~~integrated licensee,~~ and cannabis products from a licensed ~~wholesaler, product~~  
6 ~~manufacturer, integrated licensee, and dispensary~~ cannabis establishment;

7 (2) use cannabis and cannabis products to produce cannabis products;  
8 and

9 (3) transport, process, package, and sell cannabis products to a licensed  
10 ~~wholesaler, product manufacturer, retailer, integrated licensee, and dispensary~~  
11 cannabis establishment.

12 Sec. 15. 7 V.S.A. § 907 is amended to read:

13 § 907. RETAILER LICENSE

14 (a) A retailer licensed under this chapter may:

15 (1) purchase cannabis ~~from a licensed cultivator, wholesaler, or~~  
16 ~~integrated licensee,~~ and cannabis products from a licensed ~~wholesaler, product~~  
17 ~~manufacturer, integrated licensee, and dispensary~~ cannabis establishment; and

18 (2) transport, possess, package, and sell cannabis and cannabis products  
19 to the public for consumption off the registered premises or for cultivation.

20 \* \* \*

1 Sec. 16. 7 V.S.A. § 910 is amended to read:

2 § 910. CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT FEE SCHEDULE

3 The following fees shall apply to each person or product licensed by the  
4 Board:

5 \* \* \*

6 (3) Manufacturers.

7 (A) Manufacturer tier 1. Manufacturers that process and manufacture  
8 cannabis in order to produce cannabis products without using solvent-based  
9 extraction and not more than ~~\$10,000.00~~ \$50,000.00 per year in cannabis  
10 products based on the manufacturer's total annual sales in cannabis products  
11 shall be assessed an annual licensing fee of \$750.00.

12 \* \* \*

13 (7) Propagation cultivators. Propagation cultivators shall be assessed an  
14 annual licensing fee of \$500.00.

15 (8) Employees. Cannabis establishments licensed by the Board shall be  
16 assessed an annual licensing fee of \$50.00 for each employee.

17 ~~(8)~~(9) Products. Cannabis establishments licensed by the Board shall be  
18 assessed an annual product licensing fee of \$50.00 for every type of cannabis  
19 and cannabis product that is sold in accordance with this chapter.

20 ~~(9)~~(10) Local licensing fees. Cannabis establishments licensed by the  
21 Board shall be assessed an annual local licensing fee of \$100.00 in addition to

1 each fee assessed under subdivisions (1)–~~(6)~~(7) of this section. Local licensing  
2 fees shall be distributed to the municipality in which the cannabis  
3 establishment is located pursuant to section 846(c) of this title.

4 ~~(10)~~(11) One-time fees.

5 (A) All applicants for a cannabis establishment license shall be  
6 assessed an initial one-time application fee of \$1,000.00.

7 (B) An applicant may choose to be assessed an initial one-time  
8 intent-to-apply fee of \$500.00. If the applicant subsequently seeks a license  
9 within one year after paying the intent-to-apply fee, the initial one-time  
10 application fee of \$1,000.00 shall be reduced by \$500.00.

11 Sec. 17. 7 V.S.A. chapter 35 is amended to read:

12 CHAPTER 35. MEDICAL CANNABIS REGISTRY

13 § 951. DEFINITIONS

14 As used in this chapter:

15 \* \* \*

16 (8) “Qualifying medical condition” means:

17 (A) cancer, multiple sclerosis, positive status for human  
18 immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, glaucoma,  
19 Crohn’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, post-traumatic stress disorder, or the  
20 treatment of these conditions, if the disease or the treatment results in severe,  
21 persistent, and intractable symptoms; or



1 offer goods and services that are not permitted at a cannabis establishment  
2 licensed pursuant to chapter 33 of this title.

3 \* \* \*

4 § 954. CAREGIVERS

5 (a) Pursuant to rules adopted by the Board, a person may register with the  
6 Board as a caregiver of a registered patient to obtain the benefits of the  
7 Registry as provided in section 952 of this title.

8 ~~(b)(1) The Board shall adopt rules that set forth standards for determining~~  
9 ~~whether an applicant should be denied a caregiver card because of his or her~~  
10 ~~criminal history record. An applicant shall not be denied solely on the basis of~~  
11 ~~a criminal conviction that is not listed in 13 V.S.A. chapter 25 or 28~~ conduct a  
12 name and date of birth Vermont criminal conviction record background check  
13 and obtain information from the Child Protection Registry maintained by the  
14 Department for Children and Families and from the Vulnerable Adult Abuse,  
15 Neglect, and Exploitation Registry maintained by the Department of  
16 Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (collectively, the Registries) for  
17 any person who applies to be a caregiver.

18 ~~(2) The Board shall obtain from the Vermont Crime Information Center~~  
19 ~~a copy of the caregiver applicant's fingerprint based Vermont criminal history~~  
20 ~~records, out-of-state criminal history records, and criminal history records from~~  
21 ~~the Federal Bureau of Investigation.~~

1 (c) The Board shall adopt rules that set forth standards for determining  
2 whether an applicant should be denied a ~~cannabis establishment license~~  
3 caregiver card because of ~~his or her criminal history record~~ the applicant's  
4 criminal history record or status on either Registry.

5 (d)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a caregiver  
6 ~~shall serve only one patient~~ may serve not more than two patients at a time,  
7 and a patient shall have only one registered caregiver at a time. A patient may  
8 serve as a caregiver for one other patient.

9 (2) A patient who is under 18 years of age may have two caregivers.  
10 Additional caregivers shall be at the discretion of the Board.

11 (e) Medicaid funds shall not be used to support a caregiver in the  
12 cultivation or distribution of cannabis on behalf of a patient.

13 § 955. REGISTRATION; FEES

14 (a) A registration card shall expire one year after the date of issuance for  
15 patients with a qualifying medical condition of chronic pain and the caregivers  
16 who serve those patients. For all other patients and the caregivers who serve  
17 those patients, a registration card shall expire three years after the date of  
18 issuance. A patient or caregiver may renew the card according to protocols  
19 adopted by the Board.

1 (b) The Board shall charge and collect a \$50.00 ~~annual~~ registration and  
2 renewal fee for patients and caregivers. Fees shall be deposited in the  
3 Cannabis Regulation Fund as provided in section 845 of this title.

4 § 956. RULEMAKING

5 The Board shall adopt rules for the administration of this chapter. ~~No rule~~  
6 ~~shall be more restrictive than any rule adopted by the Department of Public~~  
7 ~~Safety pursuant to 18 V.S.A. chapter 86.~~

8 Sec. 18. 33 V.S.A. § 4919 is amended to read:

9 § 4919. DISCLOSURE OF REGISTRY RECORDS

10 (a) The Commissioner may disclose a Registry record only as follows:

11 \* \* \*

12 (11) To the Cannabis Control Board, in accordance with the provisions  
13 of 7 V.S.A. § 954.

14 \* \* \*

15 Sec. 19. 33 V.S.A. § 6911 is amended to read:

16 § 6911. RECORDS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION

17 \* \* \*

18 (c) The Commissioner or designee may disclose Registry information only  
19 to:

20 \* \* \*



1           (4) appropriate treatment protocols for patients, including whether  
2           ongoing medical oversight such as counseling or other services is needed for  
3           each condition being treated;

4           (5) how the use of cannabis is communicated to patients and patients’  
5           providers; and

6           (6) any other issues that will improve the Registry.

7           (b) The Board shall convene the working group not less than four times to  
8           complete its work.

9           (c) The Board shall provide recommendations for improvement to the  
10           Medical Cannabis Registry to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare  
11           and the House Committees on Human Services and on Health Care on or  
12           before January 15, 2024.

13           Sec. 22. 7 V.S.A. § 1001(8) is amended to read:

14           (8) “Tobacco substitute” means products, including electronic cigarettes  
15           or other electronic or battery-powered devices, that contain or are designed to  
16           deliver nicotine or other substances into the body through the inhalation of  
17           vapor and that have not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug  
18           Administration for tobacco cessation or other medical purposes. ~~Products~~  
19           Cannabis products as defined in section 831 of this title or products that have  
20           been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for tobacco

1 cessation or other medical purposes shall not be considered to be tobacco  
2 substitutes.

3 Sec. 23. 32 V.S.A. § 7702(15) is amended to read:

4 (15) “Other tobacco products” means any product manufactured from,  
5 derived from, or containing tobacco that is intended for human consumption by  
6 smoking, chewing, or in any other manner, including products sold as a  
7 tobacco substitute, as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 1001(8), and including any liquids,  
8 whether nicotine based or not, or delivery devices sold separately for use with  
9 a tobacco substitute, but shall not include cigarettes, little cigars, roll-your-own  
10 tobacco, snuff, ~~or~~ new smokeless tobacco as defined in this section, or  
11 cannabis products as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 831.

12 Sec. 23a. 7 V.S.A. § 831(3) is amended to read:

13 (3) “Cannabis product” means concentrated cannabis and a product that  
14 is composed of cannabis and other ingredients and is intended for use or  
15 consumption, including an edible product, ointment, and tincture. Cannabis  
16 product shall include a vaporizer cartridge containing cannabis oil that is  
17 intended for use with a battery-powered device and any device designed to  
18 deliver cannabis into the body through inhalation of vapor that is sold at a  
19 cannabis establishment licensed pursuant to chapter 33 of this title. “Cannabis  
20 product” does not mean a “tobacco product” as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 7702, a

1 “tobacco substitute” as defined in section 1001 of this title, or “tobacco  
2 paraphernalia” as defined in section 1001 of this title.

3 Sec. 23b. 7 V.S.A. § 1002 is amended to read:

4 § 1002. LICENSE REQUIRED; APPLICATION; FEE; ISSUANCE

5 (a)(1) ~~No~~ Except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, no person  
6 shall engage in the retail sale of tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or  
7 tobacco paraphernalia in his or her the person’s place of business without a  
8 tobacco license obtained from the Division of Liquor Control.

9 \* \* \*

10 (h) This section shall not apply to a cannabis establishment licensed  
11 pursuant to chapter 33 of this title to engage in the retail sale of cannabis  
12 products as defined in section 831 of this title, but not engaged in the sale of  
13 tobacco products or tobacco substitutes.

14 Sec. 24. TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATION

15 Notwithstanding 7 V.S.A. § 845(c), in fiscal year 2024:

16 (1) \$500,000.00 is transferred from the Cannabis Regulation Fund  
17 established pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 845 to the Cannabis Business Development  
18 Fund established pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 987; and

19 (2) \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the Cannabis Business  
20 Development Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development

1 to fund technical assistance and provide loans and grants pursuant to 7 V.S.A.  
2 § 987.

3 Sec. 24a. RACIAL DISPARITIES IN THE CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE  
4 JUSTICE SYSTEM ADVISORY PANEL REPORTING;  
5 RACIAL EQUITY AND COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT

6 (a) The Racial Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System  
7 Advisory Panel shall collaborate with local and national stakeholders to study  
8 the administration and funding of the Cannabis Business Development Fund  
9 and gather qualitative and quantitative data informing the establishment and  
10 funding of community reinvestment for individuals and communities  
11 disproportionately impacted by the criminalization of cannabis. The study  
12 shall do each of the following:

13 (1) Identify in an aggregated format the demographics of individuals  
14 who have been disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition in  
15 Vermont and nationally and identify communities most heavily impacted,  
16 while not disclosing the identity of any particular individual.

17 (2) Identify the ways in which such individuals and communities have  
18 been disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition in Vermont,  
19 including rates of poverty; access to employment, housing, and education; and  
20 involvement with the criminal justice system.

1           (3) Any other issues related to the impacts of the criminalization of  
2           cannabis in Vermont and the United States that will improve racial equity and  
3           community reinvestment in Vermont.

4           (b) The Panel shall convene not less than four times to complete its work.

5           (c) The Panel shall provide recommendations on how to administer and  
6           fund the Cannabis Business Development Fund and fund and administer  
7           reinvestment in individuals and communities disproportionately harmed by  
8           cannabis criminalization to the Senate Committee on Economic Development,  
9           Housing and General Affairs and on Finance on or before January 15, 2024.

10          Sec. 25. EFFECTIVE DATE

11          This act shall take effect on passage.